

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the courtesy shown by the Examiner in discussing this case with the undersigned on June 30, 2011. The revisions in claim 33 and new independent claim 43 were discussed in the interview. During the interview, the Examiner agreed that the revised claim 33 is distinguishable over the cited references. The discussions of the interview are reflected in the above amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 33 has been revised to include the feature of claim 34, with additional revisions. Claim 34 has been canceled accordingly. Claim 35 has been revised to depend from claim 33. New dependent claim 42 has been added to track the feature canceled from claim 33. New independent claim 43 has been added to track previous claim 30, with additional revisions. Support for the revisions and new claims can be found at, e.g., page 20, paragraphs 3-5 of the specification and Figs. 53-55, among other places. Claims 20 and 23-32 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 33, 35-37 and 41-43 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections 35 USC § 103

Claims 20, 23-27, 30, 33, 38, 40 and 41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steinhage et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2,550,945) in view of Bouchard et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,108,995). Applicant respectively traverses this rejection.

Claim 33 requires a one-piece pillar being provided in a wall, where at least one horizontal outward-extending piece is provided on the pillar.

Claim 33 also requires the horizontal outward-extending piece being a longitudinally profiled member, and including a top surface, a bottom surface and two end surfaces, the cross section of the horizontal outward-extending piece being substantially of a shape of downward-flared recess, the top surface of the horizontal outward-extending piece having a mid ridge higher than two sides of the surface so that left supporting slope and right supporting slope being formed.

Claim 33 further requires one of the end surfaces of the horizontal outward-extending piece being engaged with the pillar; and the other end surface of the horizontal outward-extending piece being engaged with the blocks, the top surface of the horizontal outward-extending piece being engaged with the bottom surface of the upper block, the bottom surface of the horizontal outward-extending piece being engaged with the top surface of the underlying

block, a plurality of horizontal outward-extending pieces being arranged separately and orderly on the pillar, the horizontal outward-extending pieces being engaged with the staggeringly overlapped blocks adjacent to the pillar, the left and right supporting slopes of the horizontal outward-extending pieces being used as a blocking structure and making the vertically adjacent blocks to be interlocked.

Steinhage et al. and Bouchard et al., either alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest the features as required by claim 33. In fact, Steinhage et al. and Bouchard et al. are completely silent as to a one-piece pillar being provided in a wall, where at least one horizontal outward-extending piece is provided on the pillar, as required by claim 33.

For at least these reasons, claim 33 is patentable over Steinhage et al. and Bouchard et al. Claim 41 depends from claim 33 and is patentable along with claim 33 and need not be separately distinguished at this time. Applicant is not conceding the relevance of the rejection to the remaining features of the rejected claims.

Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steinhage et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2,550,945) in view of Bouchard et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,108,995) and further in view of Bilka (U.S. Patent No. 6,606,835). The rejection of claim 28 is moot in view of the cancellation of the claim. Applicant is not conceding the correctness of the rejection for claim 28.

Claim 28 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steinhage et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2,550,945) in view of Bouchard et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,108,995) and further in view of Hancock (U.S. Patent No. 3,355,849). The rejection of claim 28 is moot in view of the cancellation of the claim. Applicant is not conceding the correctness of the rejection for claim 28.

Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steinhage et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2,550,945) in view of Bouchard et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,108,995) or French Patent No. 2.221.036. The rejection of claim 29 is moot in view of the cancellation of the claim. Applicant is not conceding the correctness of the rejection for claim 29.

Claims 34-35 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steinhage et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2,550,945) in view of Bouchard et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,108,995) and further in view of Gravier et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,623,797). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Claim 35 depends from claim 33 and is patentable over Steinhage et al. in view of Bouchard et al. and Gravier et al. for at least the same reasons discussed above regarding claims 33 and 41. Gravier et al. do not remedy the deficiencies of Steinhage et al. and Bouchard et al. Applicant is not conceding the relevance of the rejection to the remaining features of the rejected claims.

Claims 31-32 and 36-37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Steinhage et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2,550,945) in view of Bouchard et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,108,995) and further in view of Dwyer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 1,686,270). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Claim 36 and 37 depend from claim 33 and are patentable over Steinhage et al. in view of Bouchard et al. and Dwyer et al. for at least the same reasons discussed above regarding claims 33 and 41. Dwyer et al. do not remedy the deficiencies of Steinhage et al. and Bouchard et al. Applicant is not conceding the relevance of the rejection to the remaining features of the rejected claims.

Claims 20, 38 and 39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dwyer et al. (U.S. Patent No. 1,686,270) in view of Steinhage et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2,550,945) and further in view of Bouchard et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,108,995). The rejection of claims 20, 38 and 39 is moot in view of the cancellation of those claims. Applicant is not conceding the correctness of the rejection for the claims.

New independent claim 43 is patentable since the features in claim 43, e.g., the auxiliary blocks comprising a top surface auxiliary block and a bottom surface auxiliary block, the top surface of the top surface auxiliary block is planar, the bottom surface of the top surface auxiliary block has a same contour as that of the block, the bottom surface of the bottom surface auxiliary block is planar, and the top surface of the bottom surface auxiliary block has a same contour as that of the block, are not seen in or suggested by the references of record.

Application No. 10/571,878

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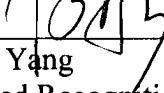
In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and reexamination are requested. Allowance of claims 33, 35-37 and 41-43 at an early date is solicited. Any questions regarding this communication can be directed to the undersigned attorney, Rong Yang, Limited Recognition No. L0279 at (612) 455-3816.



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